

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /075 W  
-----101856Z 023104 /43

R 101720Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4772  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1230

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, GY  
SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY EXPOSES PEOPLE'S NATIONAL  
CONGRESS SELF-CRITICISM

SUMMARY: ORGANIZATIONAL WEAKNESSES IN THE RULING PEOPLE'S  
NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) WERE PUBLICIZED RECENTLY BY THE  
OPPOSITION WHICH PUBLISHED IN THE "MIRROR" AN INTERNAL PNC  
DOCUMENT OUTLINING THE PARTY'S EFFORTS TO ANALYZE AND CORRECT  
ORGANIZATIONAL WEAKNESSES. THE PURLOINED DOCUMENT WAS A  
RATHER CANDID EXERCISE IN SELF-CRITICISM, AND THE OPPOSITION  
PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) GLEEFULLY USED IT AS A  
MEANS OF CRITICIZING PNC AND THE GOVERNMENT FOR CORRUPTION.  
THE PPP FOLLOWED UP ITS ATTACK WITH A CALL FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM RATHER  
THAN THE CURRENT PETTY BOURGEOIS ELITIST RULE. PPP ATTACK ON PNC  
AND PNC SELF-CRITICISM ARE PART OF PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN  
SKIRMISHING, APPEAR TO INDICATE TONE THAT CAMPAIGN  
WILL TAKE, AND ALSO REFLECT INTERNAL PROBLEMS FACED  
BY PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S PARTY. END SUMMARY.

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1. MAY 22 PUBLICATION BY PPP MIRROR OF PNC DOCUMENT  
CRITICALLY EXAMINING PROBLEMS IN FUNCTIONING OF PNC LED TO  
LIVELY PRESS EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. THE PNC  
REPORT FEATURED IN MIRROR LISTED POSSIBLE CAUSES OF  
DECLINING ATTENDANCE AT PARTY GROUP MEETINGS. IN GENERAL,  
REASONS GIVEN CENTERED ON ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY,

AND MAL-ADMINISTRATION BY PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. CAUSES INCLUDED EXCESSIVE FUND RAISING AT PARTY GATHERINGS, DICTATORIAL AND ALOOF ATTITUDES OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, POOR LEADERSHIP AND IGNORANCE OF PARTY POLICIES BY GROUP OFFICERS, BREAKDOWN IN RUNNING OF PARTY GROUPS AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES, PREVALENCE OF CRIMES AND FRAUDS, INEFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ALLEGED INFILTRATION OF PPP MEMBERS INTO PARTY APPARATUS, AND DISSATISFACTION OVER APPOINTMENTS TO SENIOR PARTY AND GOVERNMENT POSTS (I.E. TEEKAH). IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENT, MIRROR CLAIMED THAT PNC MORALE WAS EXCEEDINGLY LOW DUE TO PERVERSIVE CORRUPTION AND FRAUD.

2. IN A PRESS RELEASE OF MAY 25, PNC ADMITTED THAT IT HAD INITIATED PROCESS OF SELF-CRITICISM IN PREPARATION FOR ITS BIENNIAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD AUGUST 18-25 AND TO COMPLEMENT CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONING CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. PRESS STATEMENT CLAIMED THAT THE DOCUMENT HAD NOT BEEN SUBSTANTIATED BY INVESTIGATION BUT WAS MERELY A REFLECTION OF WHAT SOME PARTY OFFICIALS HAD HEARD AMONG PUBLIC. A MAY 29 EDITORIAL IN PNC ORGAN NEW NATION PUT SELF-CRITICISM IN CONTEXT OF BURNHAM'S DECLARATION OF SOPHIA OF DECEMBER, 1974 WHICH URGED PARTY OFFICIALS TO PRACTICE HUMILITY AND SHOW GOOD EXAMPLE. HOW WELL HAD THE PARTY AND THE NATION LEARNED THE LESSON OF SOPHIA DECLARATION? WITH SURPRISING FRANKNESS, EDITORIAL STATED THAT THERE WAS EVER-GROWING EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR SELF-CRITICISM TO ENSURE GROWTH OF PARTY. ALSO ON 29TH, MIRROR EDITORIALLY COMMENTED THAT PNC OFFICIALS HAD NOT LIVED UP TO CODE OF CONDUCT PROMULGATED IN SOPHIA DECLARATION, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMANDED THAT INTEGRITY LEGISLATION BE PASSED WITH A BROAD-BASED COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER IT.

3. CAPITALIZING ON PNC SELF-CRITICISM EXERCISE, PPP FOLLOWED UP ITS REVELATION WITH A HARSH ATTACK. IN A PRESS RELEASE CALLING FOR REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRACY, PPP SUMMED UP MANY CRITICISMS OF GOVERNMENT AND PNC WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. THE PNC HAD ALLEGEDLY NOT IMPLEMENTED SOCIALISM BUT RATHER BUREAUCRATIC MINORITY RULE FOR BENEFIT OF PETTY BOURGEOIS ELITE. WORKER CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES HAS NOT BEEN INTRODUCED AND THERE HAS BEEN NO MASS PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. PPP INSISTED THAT CLASS STRUGGLE COULD BEST BE CARRIED OUT AND CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT RESTORED UNDER A MORE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. PRESS RELEASE CITED DISCRIMINATION IN ARMED FORCES, MANIPULATION OF JUDICIARY AND GROWING PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION RESULTING IN INCREASED EMIGRATION AS EVIDENCE OF INJUSTICE OF PNC RULE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1230

4. COMMENT: PNC SELF-CRITICISM EXERCISE IS PROBABLY RESPONSE TO GROWING PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION WITH PARTY DUE TO ALLEGED CORRUPTION, FAVORITISM, AND MISMANAGEMENT. AS INDICATED FROM WORKERS' COMPLAINTS DURING BURNHAM'S MEET-THE-PEOPLE TOURS, PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION WITH ECONOMY HAS BURGEONED INTO LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN PARTY'S AND GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. PARTY'S APPARENT DIFFICULTIES IN MOBILIZING ITS SUPPORTERS AS INDICATED BY POOR ATTENDANCE AT MAY DAY RALLY AND OTHER RECENT PUBLIC GATHERINGS MAY REFLECT ORGANIZATIONAL WEAKNESSES OF PNC. TWO MONTHS AGO EMBOFFS LEARNED OF A PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF PNC WHICH WOULD REPORTEDLY REDUCE NUMBER OF REGIONS FROM 13 TO 9 AND EXPAND NUMBER OF PARTY GROUPS FROM APPROXIMATELY 200 PRESENTLY TO OVER 450. REORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS PRABABLY INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN PARTY STRUCTURE AND EXPAND MEMBERSHIP, HAS NOT YET BEEN CARRIED OUT.

5. PPP'S CALL FOR GREATER DEMOCRACY AND GENUINE SOCIALISM IS PART OF ITS OVERALL CRITICISM OF PNC FOR ALLEGEDLY INSTITUTING SYSTEM OF STATE CAPITALISM AND NOT FOLLOWING

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MARXIST-LENINIST PRINCIPLES. AS THE AVOWED VANGUARD PARTY,  
THE PNC IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE AND VULNERABLE TO THIS LINE  
OF ATTACK. THE PPP EMPHASIS ON DEMOCRACY COUPLED WITH AN  
END TO DISCRIMINATION IS AND APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE  
TO BE MAJOR THEME OF ITS ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

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**To:** STATE  
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